Application No.: 10/523,107 Docket No.: 1254-0268PUS1

Preliminary Amendment dated March 17, 2006

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**REMARKS** 

Claim 50-86 are pending in this application. Claims 43-49 have been canceled in this

amendment. Claims 1-42 were previously canceled. Claims 50-86 have been added in this

amendment. Claims 50, 54, 61, 67, 68, 71, 75, 79, and 83 are independent claims.

Entry of the above amendments to the claims is earnestly solicited. An early and

favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Terrell C. Birch (Reg. No. 19,382)

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to

expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future

replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of

time fees.

Dated: March 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Terrell C. Birch

Registration No.: 19,382

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